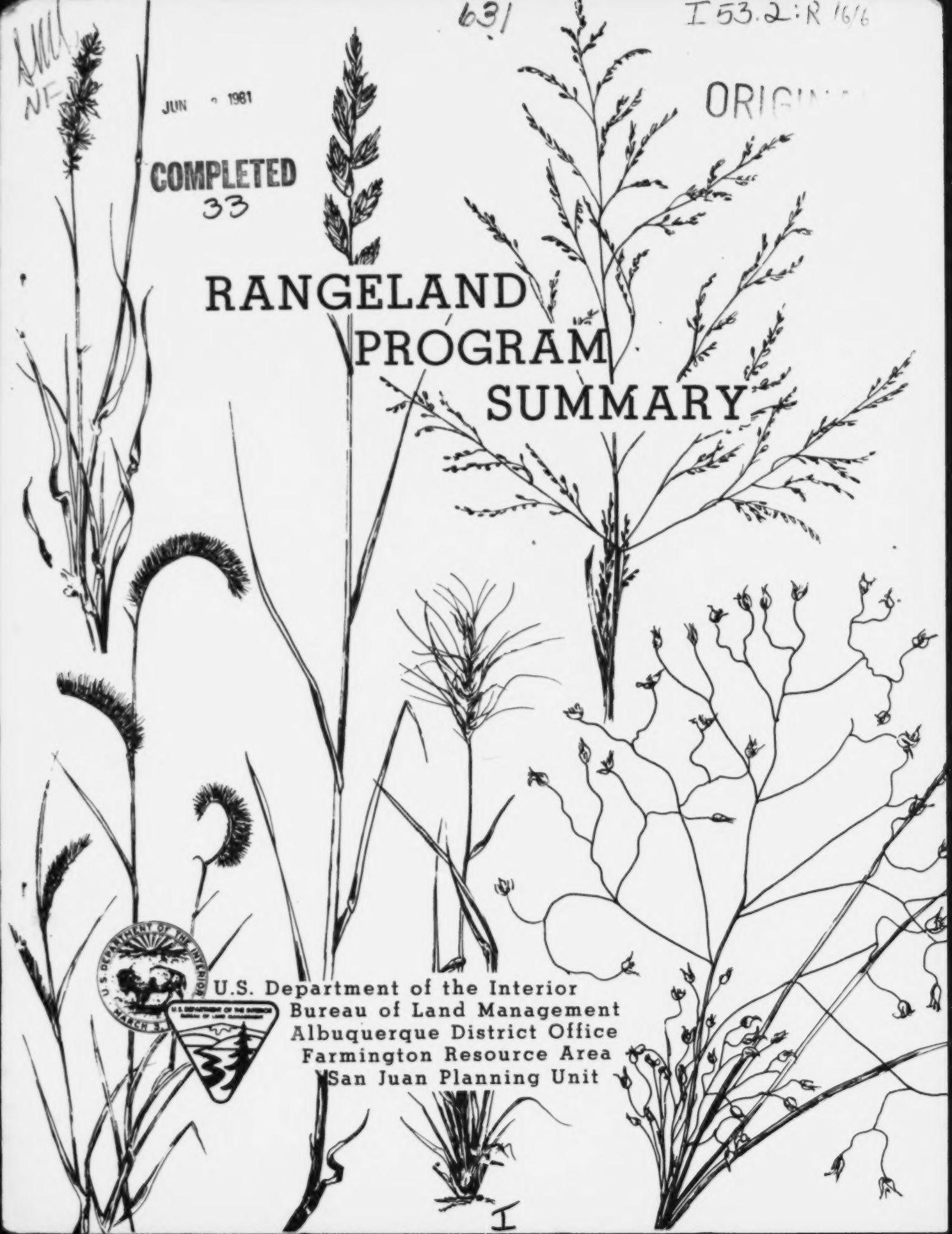
631
I 53.2:R 16/6
JUN 1981
COMPLETED
33

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque District Office
Farmington Resource Area
San Juan Planning Unit

IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FARMINGTON RESOURCE AREA
P. O. Box 568
Farmington, NM 87401

Attached is the Rangeland Program Summary which was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque District following completion of the San Juan Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The purpose of this summary is to identify actions which have occurred to date, and to provide interested publics with information as to how the Rangeland Program will be implemented in the EIS area.

We are looking forward to working with all interested publics in the development of this program in the Farmington Area.

Sincerely yours,

Robert R. Calkins
Area Manager

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

SAN JUAN RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....1
Purpose.....1
Setting.....1
The Planning Process.....3
The Program.....3
Description of Alternatives-San Juan Grazing Management EIS....15
No Action Alternative.....15
Elimination of Livestock Grazing Alternative.....15
Maximization of Livestock Forage Production Alternative...16
Enhancement of Other Resource Values Alternative.....16
Public Participation.....16
Implementation.....18
Schedule for Issuing Decisions.....19
Rangeland Development Schedule.....19
Appropriations.....20
Monitoring.....20
Accountability.....20

Tables

Table A - Allotment-Specific Allocations.....4
Table B - Type of Allotment Management.....9
Table C - Planned Rangeland Developments.....10
Table D - Planned Vegetation Treatments.....13

Map

General Location Map - San Juan Planning Unit.....2

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This document has three primary functions. First, it provides a record of decisions reached following the San Juan Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement, as required by the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations. These decisions, identified in Step III of the San Juan Planning Unit Management Framework Plan (MFP), include forage allocations for consumptive users, management objectives designed to enhance vegetative resources, and development projects needed to increase the productivity of the land or aid in the utilization of the vegetative resources.

Second, this document outlines how these decisions will be implemented. It provides a timetable for implementation as well as a method for tracking progress towards meeting all of the range and wildlife MFP Step III Decisions.

Third, this document identifies the monitoring studies that will be initiated and conducted over subsequent years to determine the effect of these decisions and the accuracy of the projections made in the San Juan Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement.

Setting

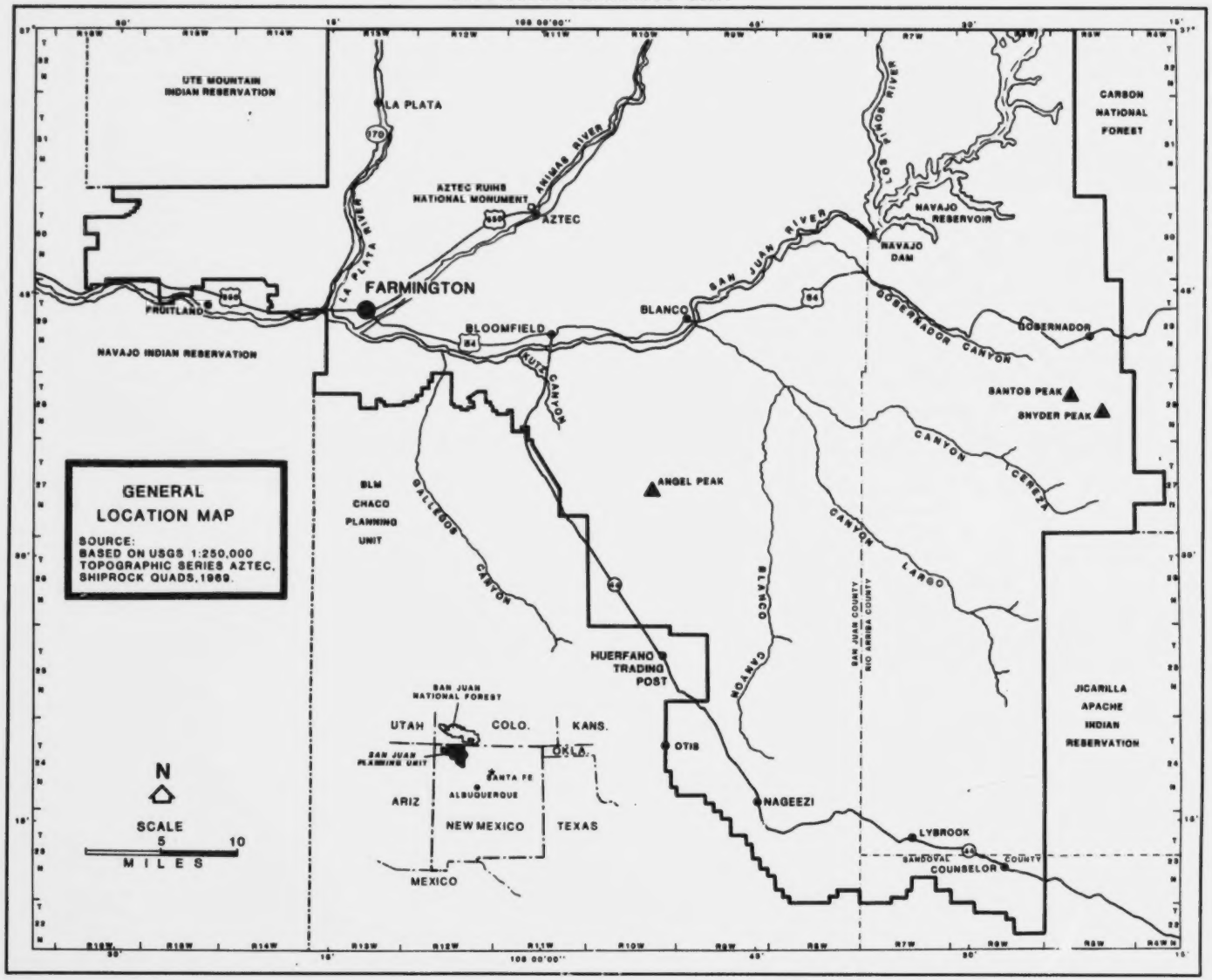
The San Juan Planning Unit is located in northwest New Mexico (refer to attached map). It is bounded on the north by the Colorado state line, on the east by the Carson National Forest and the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, on the south primarily by New Mexico State Highway 44, and on the west by the Navajo and Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservations. The Planning Unit contains 926,909 acres of public land (65 percent of the Planning Unit) administered by the BLM Farmington Resource Area.

Livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, and horses), wildlife, and wild horses graze on the public land within the Planning Unit. Presently the Planning Unit is divided into 138 grazing allotments used by 185 individual livestock operators. There are 21 community allotments with more than one operator, and one allotment that is primarily Navajo Free Use (authorized under a Secretarial Amendment filed April 21, 1954). The total preference for grazing on public land is 108,431 Animal Unit Months (AUMs), although the average licensed use over the past six years has been approximately 65,500 AUMs.

Presently 17 percent of the public land is in good range condition, 57 percent is in fair, and 26 percent is in poor condition. (This condition classification is based on Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 75-52, Change 1 of March 10, 1975 and does not reflect ecological range condition.)

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

SAN JUAN PLANNING UNIT



BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

The Planning Unit provides habitat for an estimated 200 pronghorn antelope yearlong; 1,300 mule deer yearlong, with an additional 1,700 head during the winter; 40 elk during the winter; and 200 head of introduced Barbary sheep. In addition to livestock and wildlife, an estimated 10 to 30 head of wild horses utilize the extreme northeast corner of the Planning Unit during all or part of the year.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Beginning in the fall of 1976 and continuing until January of 1979, a comprehensive range, wildlife, watershed, and wild horse inventory was conducted by the BLM Farmington Area Office on all land within the San Juan Planning Unit. The inventory information was compiled into an analysis for each grazing allotment. The information contained in each allotment analysis was then summarized in the San Juan Planning Unit Resource Analysis (URA) and opportunities to improve livestock, wildlife, and wild horse habitat were identified.

Management Framework Plan (MFP) objectives were developed for each resource, using the information contained in the URA, and recommendations to accomplish these objectives were made. The resource recommendations were analyzed, conflicts identified, and multiple use recommendations made for each grazing allotment. These multiple use recommendations became the Proposed Action discussed in the San Juan Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS analyzed the anticipated impacts, both short-term (9 years) and long-term (20 years), of the Proposed Action and four alternative actions.

THE PROGRAM

Management Framework Plan Step III Livestock, Wildlife, and Wild Horse Decisions

Upon completion of the San Juan Grazing Management EIS, final MFP Step III decisions were made. They are summarized in this document. The impacts, both beneficial and adverse, of the Proposed Action and each of the alternatives were carefully weighed and considered. The management decisions allocate available forage on public land to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses; identify the needed timing and duration of rest periods necessary to meet the physiological requirements of the vegetation; and determine those rangeland developments necessary to achieve the objectives identified for each resource. (Refer to Table A for allotment-specific allocations). These decisions were made using information contained in the San Juan URA, MFP, and EIS.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE A

ALLOTMENT-SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS
(Animal Unit Months)

Allot. Number	Allotment Name	Pre-ference	Average Licensed Use	MFP III Livestock Allocation	MFP III Wildlife Allocation	1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		4th Year		5th Year	
						Agreed Use	Actual Use	Agreed Use	Actual Use	Agreed Use	Actual Use	Agreed Use	Actual Use	Agreed Use	Actual Use
5001	North Hogback	370	214	275	0										
5002	Waterflow Community	358	283	375	4										
5003	Coal Flats	156	77	201	7										
5004	Stevens Arroyo	288	214	137	5										
5005	Shumway Arroyo	1,020	742	950	14										
5006	Cline Arroyo	272	80	301	11										
5007	Twin Mounds	765	273	276	13										
5008	Norton Flats	254	102	316	14										
5009	Cottonwood Arroyo	828	505	411	21										
5010	Pinon Mesa	419	134	338	10										
5011	Coal Bank Canyon	362	146	142	41										
5012	Jones Canyon	352	221	75	20										
5013	Thomas Canyon	206	102	0	14										
5014	State Line Community	166	76	60	11										
5015	Coyote Hills	88	69	223	21										
5016	Farmington Glade	1,012	980	644	38										
5017	McDermott Wash	228	139	173	7										
5018	LaPlata Community	284	185	224	7										
5019	Adobe Downs	168	47	207	1										
5020	Hartley Springs	436	418	503	42										
5021	Ruins	958	777	1,060	10										
5022	Barton Arroyo	108	59	38	0										
5023	Kochis Arroyo	36	36	8	0										
5024	Animas River	27	13	39	5										
5025	Riverside Community	120	49	82	5										
5026	Lonetree Mountain	1,137	777	384	74										
5027	East Farmington Community	516	365	231	1										
5028	Crouch Mesa	480	293	141	8										
5029	Crawford Mesa Community	748	481	413	8										
5030	Aztec Community	150	64	134	5										
5031	Bloomfield Community	1,014	448	448	8										
5032	South Aztec	725	384	650	5										
5033	Potter Canyon	409	370	437	10										
5034	South Hogback	99	69	158	0										
5035	Gonzales Community	310	208	374	8										
5036	North Place	408	190	533	7										
5037	Knickerbocker Peak	1,446	556	1,521	16										
5038	Blanquito	96	43	66	1										
5039	North Blanco Community	961	437	494	14										
5040	Five Mile Community	217	118	299	2										
5041	Pump Canyon	648	308	492	5										
5042	Scattered Tracts	0	0	0	—										
5043	Crow Canyon	365	321	262	7										
5044	Archuleta Community	60	55	108	5										

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE A (Continued)

Allot. Number	Allotment Name	Pre-ference	Average Licensed Use	MFP III Livestock Allocation	MFP III Wildlife Allocation	1st Year Agreed Use	1st Year Actual Use	2nd Year Agreed Use	2nd Year Actual Use	3rd Year Agreed Use	3rd Year Actual Use	4th Year Agreed Use	4th Year Actual Use	5th Year Agreed Use	5th Year Actual Use
5045	Hart Canyon	175	88	213	7										
5046	Hart Mountain	192	120	81	10										
5047	Animas Community	709	247	558	24										
5048	Little Pump	156	91	75	2										
5049	Alamo Canyon	240	165	269	23										
5050	Sandstone Canyon	636	385	662	21										
5051	Cutter Dam	246	122	61	6										
5052	Tank Mountain Community	1,632	1,227	1,358	46										
5053	Mt. Nebo	320	164	109	25										
5054	Rattlesnake Canyon	327	167	180	44										
5055	Pump Mesa	2,690	1,575	1,318	436										
5056	Middle Mesa Community	1,692	1,558	1,692	530										
5057	Mentzel Mesa	60	60	0	15										
5058*	Rosa Community	1,381	1,150	1,381	1,039										
5059	Frances Mesa	1,704	1,165	812	300										
5060	Manual Canyon	804	586	555	16										
5061	Manual Mesa	216	186	146	13										
5062	Frances Canyon	688	636	467	34										
5063	La Paca Canyon	244	53	90	16										
5064	Sims Mesa	951	761	564	27										
5065	Lopez Canyon	204	96	108	3										
5066	La Jara Canyon	0	0	17	17										
5067	Cemetary Ridge	72	37	13	3										
5068	Trujillo Spring	396	201	226	9										
5069	East Armenta	936	111	347	10										
5070	Jacquez Canyon Community	3,828	2,239	2,956	20										
5071	Harris Mesa	960	674	679	16										
5072	Angel Peak	6,420	2,070	4,207	48										
5073	Jacquez Community	1,146	1,146	1,356	14										
5074	"44"	1,164	424	786	10										
5075	Huerfanito Peak	264	96	150	10										
5076	Dufers Point	3,312	1,709	1,559	22										
5077	Huerfano	1,805	383	826	8										
5078	South Blanco Community	867	874	646	5										
5079	Petrified Forest	348	0	243	7										
5080	Sweetwater	684	320	231	7										
5081	Blanco Trading Post	659	535	638	0										
5082	Mission	300	162	126	0										
5083	Largo Community	3,942	3,474	2,891	9										

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE A (Continued)

Allot. Number	Allotment Name	Pre-ference	Average Licensed Use	MPP III Livestock Allocation	MPP III Wildlife Allocation	1st Year Agreed Use	1st Year Actual Use	2nd Year Agreed Use	2nd Year Actual Use	3rd Year Agreed Use	3rd Year Actual Use	4th Year Agreed Use	4th Year Actual Use	5th Year Agreed Use	5th Year Actual Use
5084	Sheep Well	648	116	306	7										
5085	Nageezi	78	82	50	0										
5086	Turley	47	17	21	0										
5087	Martinez Mesa	392	232	269	10										
5088	Baltzar Peak	546	259	233	14										
5089	Navajo Dam	308	287	131	7										
5090	Cool Water Canyon	132	75	65	5										
5091	Manzanares Mesa	528	284	325	7										
5092	Navajo City	661	273	361	14										
5093	Jaramillo Community	1,152	1,046	953	85										
5094															
5095	Jesus Canyon	1,187	894	923	67										
5096	Jesus Mesa	336	199	103	10										
5097	Gobernador Canyon	804	442	138	14										
5098	Devils Spring	252	217	126	22										
5099	4-Mile Canyon	96	49	44	7										
5100	Gobernador Camp	230	273	157	10										
5101															
5102	4-Mile Mesa	168	179	145	10										
5103	Headwater Canyon	36	27	4	0										
5104	Laguna Seca Draw	292	214	170	43										
5105	Snyder Peak	430	117	300	66										
5106	Canyon Largo	4,368	3,243	3,192	127										
5107	Delgadito Mesa	1,801	1,540	1,541	39										
5108	Carrizo Canyon	396	312	351	43										
5109	Munoz Canyon	716	397	418	25										
5110	Otis	55	13	180	4										
5111	South Equus	372	97	245	0										
5112	Pioche Canyon	624	295	227	43										
5113	Ensenada Mesa	4,385	1,662	2,563	260										
5114	Ice Canyon	3,984	2,233	2,109	304										
5115	Superior Mesa	3,147	2,279	2,351	179										
5116	Gonzales Mesa	1,095	954	597	102										
5117	Carter Mesa	336	130	332	31										
5118	Crow Mesa	1,945	1,452	899	60										
5119	Rancho Largo	8,616	5,246	3,752	116										
5120	LaParita Canyon	156	151	58	13										
5121	North Equus	132	142	63	0										
5122	Eagle Rock	252	206	279	14										
5123	Escrito Spring	48	23	9	5										
5124	Gallo Canyon	300	74	89	0										

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE A (Concluded)

Allot. Number	Allotment Name	Pre-ference	Average Licensed Use	MFP III Livestock Allocation	MFP III Wildlife Allocation	1st Year Agreed Use	1st Year Actual Use	2nd Year Agreed Use	2nd Year Actual Use	3rd Year Agreed Use	3rd Year Actual Use	4th Year Agreed Use	4th Year Actual Use	5th Year Agreed Use	5th Year Actual Use
5125	Kutz Canyon	1,172	1,172	677	14										
5126	Head Canyon	466	466	143	7										
5127	Gallegos Canyon	192	130	157	2										
5128	Horn Canyon	84	28	33	1										
5129	Stewart Canyon	360	246	243	24										
5130	Santo Nino	144	83	79	7										
5131	Ranito	168	17	137	2										
5132	Rivershore	48	36	41	2										
5133	Jewett Valley	18	12	1	2										
5134	San Juan River	18	17	4	6										
5135	LaJara Canyon	764	349	290	22										
5136	Hargis Arroyo	28	22	16	1										
5137	Chico	144	77	181	7										
5138	North Glade	322	41	233	7										
5139	Coach	380	53	489	20										
5140	Flora Vista	1,632	588	860	19										
	Totals	108,431	85,553	70,462	5,263										

Note: *MFP III Wild Horse Allocation - 240 AUM s. This is the only grazing allotment where wild horses are found.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

To summarize, the decisions allocate 70,462 AUMs to livestock; 5,263 AUMs to wildlife; and 276 AUMs to wild horses on the 138 grazing allotments. The decisions correspond to the allocations identified for the Proposed Action as discussed in the EIS on all but nine grazing allotments. On these nine allotments forage allocations have been made, but rest from grazing use for one year out of every three is not mandatory because only a small amount of public land (a total of approximately 2,000 acres) exists within these allotments. These allotments will be managed under a non-intensive management permit.

On the remaining 129 grazing allotments the decisions state that all public land will receive rest from livestock grazing at least once every three years during the spring (April 1 to May 31) and summer (July 15 to September 15) growing seasons (refer to Table B). The livestock operator in cooperation with the BLM will determine how this rest will be accomplished. Some possible means of achieving this rest include a pasture system, a change in season of use, or removing all livestock once every three years.

The decisions have also identified the rangeland developments needed to achieve the objectives stated in MFP Step I. These include: 9 dirt tanks, 18 miles of pipeline, 33 drinking tubs, 15 equipped wells (with windmill, pump-jack, or electric pump), 7 cattleguards, 7 storage tanks (20,000 gallons), 5 springs, 1 slickrock catchment, 7 miles of fence, and one sump (refer to Table C for a listing by allotment). Additional proposed developments that would primarily benefit big game wildlife species are: 20 springs, 5 slickrock catchments, and 20 inverted umbrellas.

Vegetation treatments include seed only, 120 acres; chain sagebrush, 29,420 acres; chain and seed sagebrush, 16,305 acres; plow and seed sagebrush, 6,914 acres; chain and seed pinyon-juniper, 1,360 acres; total, 54,119 acres (refer to Table D). These developments and treatments are a combination of MFP recommendations for the range, watershed, and wildlife resources; all three of these resources would benefit from the developments.

The Proposed Action as analyzed in the San Juan Grazing Management EIS was found to be the most environmentally preferable alternative when the impacts on all resources, including social and economic conditions, were considered. The Proposed Action will accomplish the objectives of the Planning Unit's rangeland program while minimizing the adverse impacts, both environmental and economic.

The Proposed Action was selected for 129 (93 percent) of the grazing allotments. Under this program, production of usable

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE B

TYPE OF ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Allotments that will be required to receive rest once every three years (during the spring and summer growing seasons) are:

5001	5048	5092
5002	5049	5093
5003	5050	5095
5004	5051	5096
5005	5052	5097
5006	5053	5098
5007	5054	5099
5008	5055	5100
5009	5056	5102
5010	5058	5104
5011	5059	5105
5012	5060	5106
5014	5061	5107
5015	5062	5108
5016	5063	5109
5017	5064	5110
5018	5065	5111
5019	5066	5112
5020	5067	5113
5021	5068	5114
5025	5069	5115
5026	5070	5116
5027	5071	5117
5028	5072	5118
5029	5073	5119
5030	5074	5120
5031	5075	5121
5032	5076	5122
5033	5077	5123
5034	5078	5124
5035	5079	5125
5036	5080	5126
5037	5081	5127
5038	5082	5128
5039	5083	5129
5040	5084	5130
5041	5086	5131
5043	5087	5135
5044	5088	5137
5045	5089	5138
5046	5090	5139
5047	5091	5140

Allotments to be managed under a non-intensive management permit are:

5022	5085	5133
5023	5103	5134
5024	5132	5136

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE C

PLANNED RANGELAND DEVELOPMENTS

Allot. Number	Development	Quantity and Unit
5002	Dirt tanks	3
5004	Dirt tanks	1
5005	Inverted umbrella	1
5006	Dirt tanks	2
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
5007	Well with windmill	1 each
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
	Inverted umbrella	1
5008	Dirt tanks	1
5009	Cattleguards	2
5010	Dirt tanks	2
5011	Inverted Umbrella	1
5016	Pipeline	1/2 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
5018	Well with pump	1 each
	20,000 gal. storage tank	1
5018	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
5026	Inverted umbrella	1
5028	Well with pump	1 each
	20,000 gal. storage tank	1
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
5029	Pipeline	1/3 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
5030	Well with pump	1 each
	20,000 gal. storage tank	1
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
5031	Pipeline	1 1/2 mi.
	Drinking tubs	2
5032	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
	Inverted umbrella	1
5039	Well with pump	1 each
	20,000 gal. storage tank	1
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE C (continued)

Allot. Number	Development	Quantity and Unit
5039	Drinking tub	1
	Spring	1
	Drinking tub (to be partly on Allot. 5041)	1/2
5040	Spring	1
5041	Slick rock catchment	1
	20,000 gal. storage tank	1
	Drinking tub	1
	Drinking tub (to be partly on Allot. 5039)	1/2
5042	Spring	1
5050	Slick rock catchment	1
5052	Slick rock catchment	1
	Inverted umbrella	1
5055	Fence	2 mi.
5056	Well with windmill	1 each
	20,000 gal. storage tank	1
	Pipeline	3 mi.
	Drinking tubs	2
5058	Well with pump	1 each
5059	Spring	1
5070	Well with windmill	1 each
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Springs	2
5071	Sump	1
5072	Inverted umbrellas	2
5073	Well with windmill	1 each
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Spring	1
	Drinking tubs	2
5075	Well with windmill	1 each
	Pipeline	1 mi.
	Drinking tubs	2
5076	Well with windmill	1 each
	Pipeline	1/10 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
	Inverted umbrella	1
	Springs	2
5077	Well with windmill	1 each
	Pipeline	3 mi.
	Drinking tubs	2

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE C (concluded)

Allot. Number	Development	Quantity and Unit
5083	Wells with windmills	2 each
	Pipeline	1/2 mi.
	Drinking tubs	2
	Fence	5 mi.
	Cattleguards	5
5086	Spring	1
	Drinking tub	1
5087	Slick rock catchment	1
	Springs	2
5088	Spring	1
	Drinking tub	1
	Spring	1
5091	Spring	1
5095	Inverted umbrella	1
	Springs	2
5096	Inverted umbrella	1
5100	Well with windmill	1 each
	20,000 gal. storage tank	1
	Pipeline	1 mi.
	Drinking tubs	2
5105	Inverted umbrellas	2
5106	Inverted umbrella	1
	Slick rock catchment	1
	Spring	1
5107	Pipeline	1 1/4 mi.
	Drinking tub	1
5108	Inverted umbrella	1
5109	Inverted umbrella	1
	Slick rock catchment	1
5112	Inverted umbrella	1
5113	Inverted umbrella	1
	Springs	2
5114	Inverted umbrella	1
5115	Pipeline	4 mi.
	Drinking tubs	3
	Inverted umbrella	1
	Springs	2
5118	Spring	1
5119	Springs	3

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE D

PLANNED VEGETATION TREATMENTS

Allot. Number	Seed Only	Sagebrush			Pinyon-Juniper	Total Acres Treated
		Chain Only	Chain and Seed	Plow and Seed	Chain and Seed	
5012	120					120
5026				1,687		1,687
5037			961			961
5039		1,000	500			1,500
5043			300			300
5045			250			250
5046			70			70
5047			600			600
5048			634			634
5049			110			110
5052				160		160
5053					360	360
5054					300	300
5055			700	500		1,200
5056				1,000		1,000
5058			1,200			1,200
5059			300			300
5060			600			600
5061				237		237
5062			700	80		780
5065				500		500
5068			600			600
5070		1,800				1,800
5071			400			400
5072		6,000				6,000
5074		600				600
5075		600				600
5076		5,000				5,000
5077		2,000				2,000
5078		700				700
5079		600				600
5080		700				700
5081		2,200				2,200
5082		1,000				1,000
5083		150				150
5084		400				400
5087				120		120
5088			740			740
5089				80		80

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

TABLE D (concluded)

Allot. Number	Seed Only	Sagebrush			Pinyon-Juniper	Total Acres Treated
		Chain Only	Chain and Seed	Plow and Seed	Chain and Seed	
5090				160		160
5091			150	300		450
5092				150		150
5093			200			200
5094				100		100
5095				150		150
5096				220		220
5097				150		150
5098				100		100
5099				40		40
5100			150			150
5102				100		100
5104				80		80
5105				80		80
5106			1,000			1,000
5108			330			330
5109				80		80
5110		300				300
5111		600				600
5112		150				150
5113		2,000	80			2,080
5114		1,400				1,400
5115				300		300
5116			180			180
5117		160	200			360
5118		1,300	800			2,100
5119		600	3,900	500		5,000
5120			350			350
5124		160	300			460
5135				40		40
Totals	120	29,420	16,305	6,914	660	53,419

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

able forage on public lands will increase over the long-term (20 years) by about 32,000 AUMs; range condition will improve to an estimated 29 percent good, 53 percent fair, and 18 percent poor; and sediment yield will decrease from 1,600 acre-feet per year to 1,300 acre-feet per year (a 20 percent reduction in soil loss and erosion). Major big game numbers will increase. Total livestock sales from these allotments will increase by 29 percent and net income will increase by 28 percent. Loan valuation of the allotments will be reduced by 18 percent.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVES - SAN JUAN GRAZING MANAGEMENT EIS

No Action Alternative

Forage allocations to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses would be 71,945 AUMs in the short term (9 years) and long term (20 years). Livestock forage allocations would be 66,146 AUMs, and the difference between the authorized grazing use (66,146 AUMs) and the grazing preference (108,371 AUMs) would be held in suspension. Forage allocations to wildlife would be 5,799 AUMs (the same as the short-term allocation under the Proposed Action), and no AUMs would be allocated to wild horses. The 15 allotments for which AMPs have been developed would be intensively managed, those without AMPs would be managed as at present, and new grazing management systems would not be developed. No new rangeland developments would be constructed, but existing developments would continue to be maintained.

This alternative was not accepted because it would not meet the MFP objectives for increased forage production for livestock, wildlife, or wild horses, or for improvement of watershed.

Elimination of Livestock Grazing Alternative

This alternative would remove livestock from the public land in order to reserve available forage for wildlife and wild horses, and for the enhancement of watershed and visual resources. The short-term allocation to wildlife would be 5,799 AUMs; 16,630 AUMs would be allocated in the long term. Wild horses would be allocated 420 AUMs in both the short and long terms. In addition, 69,191 AUMs would be reserved for non-consumptive uses including watershed, wildlife habitat, cover, and aesthetics. No new grazing management systems would be developed and those AMPs now implemented would be cancelled. No new rangeland developments would be constructed unless necessary for wildlife or watershed management. Livestock grazing would be limited to state and private lands.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

This alternative was not accepted because of its severe socio-economic impacts and because it did not meet livestock MFP objectives.

Maximization of Livestock Forage Production Alternative

This alternative would provide an intensive program of range management practices to achieve optimum forage production for livestock. Initial livestock allocations under this alternative would be 69,335 AUMs. As a result of increased vegetation treatments (237,584 acres), 106,748 AUMs would be anticipated for livestock use in the long term. Wildlife would be allocated 5,799 AUMs in the short term and 16,630 AUMs in the long term. Wild horses would be allocated 276 AUMs in both the short and long terms. Intensive grazing management would be implemented on all 138 allotments. Present management would continue on the 15 allotments with existing AMPs. Rangeland developments as mentioned in the Proposed Action would also be constructed under this alternative. In addition, chemical treatment would be applied on 54,119 acres to control sagebrush.

This alternative was not accepted because it would result in the deterioration of upland game habitat (510,000 acres) and non-game bird habitat on 1.5 million acres.

Enhancement of Other Resource Values Alternative

This alternative considers a lower level of livestock use than the Proposed Action in order to enhance other resource values. Livestock AUMs on good condition range would remain the same as under the Proposed Action. AUMs on fair and poor condition ranges (1,075,137 acres) would be reduced 50 percent. Livestock forage allocation would be 42,041 AUMs in both the short and long terms.

Forage allocations for wildlife would be 5,799 AUMs in the short term and 16,630 AUMs in the long term. Wild horse allocations would be 420 AUMs for both the short and long terms. In addition, 27,150 AUMs would be reserved for other (wildlife) consumptive and non-consumptive uses, including watershed, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. Rangeland developments and vegetation treatments would remain the same as those described for the Proposed Action.

This alternative was not accepted because it did not meet the range objectives set forth in the MFP.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public, as well as numerous government agencies and private groups, has played a vital role in the development of these decisions from initial inventory in 1976, through the URA, MFP, EIS and now into this Rangeland Program Summary. It is our sincere hope and intention that this participation will

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

continue and improve in the future. The following section identifies the major public meetings held to date.

On October 5th and 12th, 1976, information meetings were held to discuss the range inventory, planning, and EIS process. All livestock operators in the northern half of the Planning Unit were invited to attend. On October 13, 1977, a second information meeting was held to discuss the same topics, and all livestock operators in the southern half of the Planning Unit were invited.

On September 7th and 12th, 1978, all livestock operators in the Planning Unit were invited to attend a general information meeting to discuss the progress of the range inventory and how this inventory data would be used in the BLM planning system.

On September 8th and 13th, 1978, range tours were scheduled to demonstrate the procedures used in collecting the inventory data. All livestock operators in the Planning Unit were invited to the two identical tours.

On November 1, 1978, an open house was held at the BLM office in Farmington to obtain public input into the San Juan Unit Resource Analysis. All livestock operators, interest groups, and the general public were invited.

On July 1, 1979, a letter was sent to all livestock operators in the Planning Unit announcing that the inventory data had been compiled and initial recommendations were being developed. The operators were invited to come into the Farmington Area Office to discuss the data and the way in which they would be affected by the recommendations.

On July 5, 1979, an open house was held at the BLM office in Farmington to obtain public input into the San Juan Management Framework Plan. All livestock operators, interest groups, and the general public were invited.

On August 14, 1979, a public meeting was held at the San Juan College Theater for the purpose of determining the scope of the issues to be addressed in the San Juan Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement. All livestock operators, interest groups, and the general public were invited.

On June 5, 1980, the Draft San Juan Grazing Management EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Copies were mailed to all livestock operators, interest groups, and interested public. The comment period on the draft began June 13, 1980 and ended July 28, 1980.

On July 8th and 9th, 1980, public hearings were held in Farmington and Albuquerque, respectively, to receive public comments on the Draft EIS. All livestock operators, interest groups, and the general public were invited.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

On September 30, 1980, the Final San Juan Grazing Management EIS was filed with the EPA. A copy was mailed to all livestock operators, interest groups, and interested public. The comment period began October 10, 1980 and ended November 10, 1980.

On November 25, 1980, a meeting was held to obtain input for the development of this Rangeland Program Summary and to determine to what extent the various groups and individuals wished to be involved with our future rangeland management program. All of the Albuquerque District's Multiple Use Advisory Council members, the New Mexico Congressional delegation, New Mexico Range Improvement Task Force members, San Juan Livestock Growers Association, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico State Land Commission, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, San Juan Wildlife, Federation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were invited.

IMPLEMENTATION

Administrative Actions - Grazing Use Adjustments

Immediately following the completion of this document, consultation and coordination with the livestock operators and other interested parties will begin. The purpose of these consultations will be to work out a five-year program of livestock use. This program will be designed, to determine what, if any, additional adjustments (increases or decreases) are needed to bring livestock use in balance with actual forage production. The program will also identify the monitoring studies to be initiated on each grazing allotment.

The consultations will consist of:

1. A field inspection of the entire allotment with the livestock operator and any other interested parties to evaluate the present allotment condition and use.

2. Formulation of a cooperative agreement between the livestock operator and the BLM. This agreement will specify the schedule of livestock adjustments (either increases or decreases) needed to bring livestock use in balance with actual forage production, the management practices that will occur on each grazing allotment, and the monitoring studies that will be initiated to evaluate the effects of the agreed-to level of use on the vegetation resource.

3. Issuance of a decision by the BLM Area Manager based on the aforementioned cooperative agreement. The decision will specify the grazing use identified in the agreement by year. Any reduced AUMs will be placed in suspension. Any increased AUMs will be authorized through a non-renewable licence until the evaluation based on the monitoring studies either confirms or refutes the

adjustments. A total of 232 decisions will need to be issued.

SCHEDULE FOR ISSUING DECISIONS

Fiscal Year 1981 - 100 decisions
Fiscal Year 1982 - 132 decisions

RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

The implementation of the rangeland developments proposed in the San Juan MFP and analyzed in the San Juan Grazing Management EIS is scheduled to be completed over a nine-year period. With adequate appropriations and workforce, the following schedule represents the best estimate for completing the implementation of all rangeland developments within the proposed timeframe.

First Year of Implementation

Drill 7 waterwe[illegible] construct 3 slickrock catchments and 5 springs; seed 120 acres; chain 2,300 acres of sagebrush; chain and seed 1,400 acres of sagebrush; plow and seed 670 acres of sagebrush; complete environmental assessments, benefit/cost, survey and design on second-year projects.

Second Year of Implementation

Equip 7 wells drilled in first year; construct 7 miles of pipeline and 3 slickrock catchments; install 2 storage tanks (20,000 gal/ea.), 5 drinking tubs, and 5 inverted umbrellas; chain 5,600 acres of sagebrush; complete environmental assessments, benefit/cost, survey and design for third-year projects.

Third Year of Implementation

Drill 8 water wells; install 2 storage tanks (20,000 gal/ea.), 3 miles of pipeline, and 9 drilling tubs; develop 4 springs and 1 sump; chain 5,000 acres of sagebrush; chain and seed 870 acres of sagebrush; complete environmental assessments, benefit/cost, survey and design for fourth-year projects.

Fourth Year of Implementation

Equip 8 water wells; install 1 storage tank (20,000 gal/ea.), 3 miles of pipeline, 5 drinking tubs, 5 inverted umbrellas, and 7 cattleguards; construct 7 miles of fence; chain and seed 660 acres of pinyon-juniper; complete environmental assessments, benefit/cost, survey and design for fifth-year projects.

Fifth Through Ninth Years of Implementation

Install 2 storage tanks (20,000 gal/ea.), 5 miles of pipeline, 12 drinking tubs, and 9 inverted umbrellas; develop 17 springs

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

and 9 dirt reservoirs; chain 3,000 acres per year of sagebrush; chain and seed 3,000 acres of sagebrush per year; and plow and seed 1,250 acres per year.

Additional rangeland developments (primarily fencing) may be necessary to implement activity plans and facilitate grazing management systems. These projects will be identified in the activity plan and analyzed in an environmental assessment.

APPROPRIATIONS

The implementation of the rangeland developments and some grazing management systems is contingent upon increased rangeland funding. The proposed rate of development is subject to change based on future appropriations.

MONITORING

Monitoring the effects of these decision will be a key and vital part of the overall rangeland program. The vegetation response to changes in livestock use and use patterns, the effect forage allocations for wildlife consumption have on the wildlife population, and the response of the wild horse population to forage allocation will provide valuable information for future management decisions and environmental considerations.

Monitoring will consist of:

1. Maintaining actual livestock use records,
2. Measuring forage utilization,
3. Surveying wildlife use levels and utilization patterns,
4. Maintaining precipitation records,
5. Monitoring changes in range conditions and trend,
6. Surveying wild horse numbers and utilization patterns, and
7. Maintaining livestock production data.

Monitoring studies will be initiated concurrent with the effective date of the Area Manager's decision. Allotment evaluations will be conducted following the second and fourth years' grazing season to determine if subsequent adjustments in livestock numbers (up or down) are needed to meet the management objectives for the allotment. The livestock operator and any other interested parties will be invited to participate in both the monitoring and evaluations for the purpose of making recommendations about future grazing use.

ACCOUNTABILITY

This Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) will be updated annually and available for public inspection by November 15 of each year. The update will include an introduction describing what actions have taken place since the date of issuance of this RPS, the number and magnitude of agreements reached, the number of decisions issued, the current status of monitoring

studies, the progress made towards management system implementation, and the number of rangeland developments constructed. In those years where allotment evaluations are scheduled, the final evaluation and recommendations will become part of the RPS update. This information will be presented by grazing allotment to aid in tracking.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE